Response on National Labour Commission's report

1724. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 293 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st November, 2002 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not yet come out with a comprehensive response on the report;

(b) if so, by when Government are likely to come out with their response; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the absence of such a comprehensive response several Ministers have been making different suggestions regarding liberal terms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Second National Commission on Labour (NCL) in its report has made recommendations covering various aspects of labour *viz.*, review of laws, social security, women and child labour, skill development, labour administration, unorganized sector etc. The Government has initiated the process of tripartite consultations and interaction with the social partners for arriving at a workable consensus for implementation of the recommendations of the Commission's report. The report of NCL was discussed at the 38th Session of Indian Labour Conference held on 28-29 September, 2002. The recommendations relating to unorganized sector were also discussed at a National Seminar on the organised sector held on 7-8 November, 2002. The recommendation are proposed to be further discussed at a tripartite committee meeting in February, 2003. However, given the procedure and process involved, it may be difficult to specify the time limit.

Streamlining and modification of labour laws

1725. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering streamlining and modification of nearly 50 labour laws to bring them in tune with the requirements of the changing economic scenario;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal alongwith the labour laws to be modified; and

(c) by when a legislation in this regard is likely to be brought before the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Second National Commission on Labour in its report submitted to the Government on 29.6.2002 has recommended rationalization of labour laws. The Commission has proposed indicative drafts for laws on (i) Labour Management Relations, (ii) Wages, (iii) Occupational Safety and Health, (iv) Small Enterprises (Employment Relations), (v) Hours of Work, Leave and Other Working Conditions at Workplace, (vi) Child Labour, and (vii) Law on Unorganised Sectors. The recommendations of the Commission are in process in consultation with all social partners. However, given the procedures involved, it may not be possible to specify the time limit.

Daily wages for unorganised labour

1726. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unorganised labour on daily wages, on permanent basis in the rural sectors during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that these workers have no social security provisions and do not enjoy any support system during their old age;

(c) whether the Second National Labour Commission has suggested effective measures for their old age provisions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to give effect to the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) State-wise and year-wise information on the number of unorganized workers working on daily wages, permanent basis is not maintained. However, as per National Sample Survey (NSS) conducted during 1999-2000, the number of regular salaried and casual workers in rural areas was estimated at 5.52 crores and 13.18 crores respectively.

(b) The Government has taken several steps for the welfare of workers in the unorganized sector. Government has launched Janshree Bima Yojana on 10.8.2000 to provide life insurance protection to the rural and urban poor persons including unorganized workers who are below and marginally above poverty line. The Government has also set up welfare funds for the workers in some of the mining sectors and beedi workers. These funds are used to provide various kinds of welfare measures to the